

ALBION FIRE DISTRICT, INC.

ANNUAL TAXPAYERS' MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 2014

Meeting Minutes (Condensed)

Complete Transcript on File with the District Clerk

Present: Commissioners: Michael Allen, Chairman

Michael Napolitano, Vice Chairman

Sharon Remillard

Daniel Adamski

Anthony Leone

Chief Richard Andrews

Treasurer Raymond Neves

Tax Collector David Almond

Moderator Rene Remillard

Clerk Lois Moore

Attorney Louis DeSimone

Robert J. Civetti, Marcum LLP

Meeting called to order by the Moderator at 7:00 p.m. The required quorum in attendance. The Moderator called the roll.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Chairman Allen requested a Motion to suspend the approval of the September 16 and 30, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Motion passed.

Motion requested to approve the monthly bills for payment. Motion

passed.

Motion requested and made to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Motion passed.

Chief's Report: Chief Andrews presented his annual report. He advised that in his preparation of the proposed budget he took into careful consideration the safety of the citizens of Albion, the safety of the Firefighters and economic times.

He also thanked the Firefighters for their professionalism and unselfish dedication to the Albion Fire District. He also thanked the residents for providing the department with the equipment needed to carry out their mission. The Chief detailed Fire Prevention, Training, Staffing, and Statistics for 2013.

The 2014/2015 Budget as proposed indicates an overall increase of 1.6%. This budget as presented will require no tax increase for the 2014/2015 budget year.

The Commissioners and Chief are seeking taxpayer approval to replace Ladder 20, a 2002 American LaFrance truck. Since 2007 the department has spent \$90,000 in repairs over and above normal maintenance and the annual truck payment which is \$30,000. Parts are difficult to obtain since the company is now out of business. We are proposing replacement of Ladder 20 with a new E-One 100 Quint-style aerial ladder, which is a versatile vehicle. It has a water tank, pump, ladders, aerial ladder and hose. The price of the truck is \$870,000. Financing will be a twelve-year lease/purchase with interest rate of 3.38% and a \$150,000 downpayment. In return for this downpayment, the department will receive a prepayment check from

E-One for \$18,000 which will be used to purchase new equipment.

E-One would provide a performance bond in the amount of the truck.

The proposed Resolutions will reflect the monies needed for this project. Squad 21 is paid off in November 2014. The approval of this truck purchase will not result in an increase in the tax rate.

Motion requested and passed to approve Chief Andrews' report.

Tax Collector's Report: Assessed December 31, 2012 Real Estate and Tangible \$987,693.62, Motor Vehicles \$41,531.45 for a total \$1,029,225.07. Collected through October 1, 2014 Real Estate and Tangible \$951,726.34, Motor Vehicles \$36,194.13. Prior years including interest \$34,092.55, collection fees \$3,677.31 for a total \$1,025,690.33.

Outstanding taxes for current year Real Estate and Tangible is \$25,668.50, Motor Vehicles \$5,087.43, prior years \$33,081.73 for a total of \$63,837.66.

Motion requested and passed to approve the Tax Collector's Report.

Treasurer's Report: As of September 30, 2014 Cash Account, \$33,065.07, Investments, \$141,401.01, Petty cash \$148.02,

Freedom savings \$56,551.30, Navigant money market/share account \$42,846.36, designated accounts \$102,555.23 and restricted accounts \$30,994.46. Bank Statement Balance as of September 30, \$407,561.45.

Factoring outstanding checks and deposits, the Cash Balance is \$400,859.41.

Jean Gagnon questioned why the report covered only eleven months.

Following discussion it was explained that in order for the

Department to have a budget approved to begin business on November 1, the meeting must be held in October, per the Charter. Therefore, the latest figures which can be provided are through the end of September. Mr. Gagnon was offered a copy of last year's audit report and also a copy of the October 31, 2014 report when completed.

Further discussion indicated that the District estimates \$75,000 will be expended to cover payroll and expenses for the month of October which would leave a balance of approximately \$325,000 to start next year.

Roland Montigny questioned why the meeting is held at the High School rather than in the bays of the fire station.

Chairman Michael Allen acknowledged and thanked the firefighters for their service to the District. He also reiterated the Chief's request for the members to approve the purchase on a new truck. Those in attendance were invited to attend any and all monthly meetings of the Board of Commissioners.

Budget Presentation: The Moderator stated that he would read each line item of the budget and if any questions were raised, that line item would be noted and the questions answered at the end of the budget reading. Carl Brunetti questioned the Pension line item. Jean Gagnon questioned the New Equipment line item. Carl Brunetti

questioned how the Surplus line item for the current year would be handled. Chief Andrews responded to his question. Carl Brunetti's question on the Pension line item questioned the 7% increase. Chief Andrews advised that the State each year sends notification of what the percentage will be. Jean Gagnon questioned the \$12,000 in the New Equipment line item while we spent \$18,290 during the current year. Chief Andrews said we actually spent only \$8,290 because he received a grant of \$10,000 for this equipment. Roland Montigny questioned whether the Pension was 100% funded. Chief Andrews said it is fully funded on the District's part.

The Moderator entertained a Motion to approve the budget as read. Motion made by Raymond Depault, seconded by Earl Andrews, Jr. Motion passed.

Election of Officers:

Board Member: There being no other nominations, Daniel Adamski was re-elected to a five-year terms by a vote cast by the Secretary.

Treasurer: There being no other nominations, Raymond Neves was re-elected to a one-year term by a vote cast by Raymond Depault.

Moderator: Rene Remillard was nominated by default by Commissioner Michael Allen.

Resolutions:

R-1 – Setting the minimum tax on real estate, commercial real estate

and tangible at \$30. Motion to approve by Carl Brunetti, seconded by Raymond Depault. Motion passed

R-2 - Setting the tax rate of \$1.50 per thousand for residential, \$1.75 per thousand for commercial and \$3.00 per thousand for tangibles. Motion to approve by Raymond Depault, seconded by Don Martin. Motion passed

R-3 – Setting tax rate for Motor Vehicles at \$1.10 per thousand with a minimum tax of \$10. Motion to approve by Carl Brunetti, seconded by Don Martin. Motion passed

R-4 – Allow the Commissioners to reallocate or transfer unexpended or unencumbered appropriation balance from one budget item to another during the fourth quarter. Motion to approve by Raymond Depault, seconded by Don Martin.

Motion passed

R-5 – Setting interest rate of 18 percent per annum on all unpaid accounts. Motion to approve by Raymond Depault, Seconded by Jean Gagnon. Motion passed

R-6 – Authorize \$10,000 as a reserve for any areas of the approved budget that may be underfunded. Motion to approve by Raymond Depault, seconded by Don Martin. Motion passed.

R-7 – Authorize and approve the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$870,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new 100 ft. aerial Quint ladder truck. Purchase will be made with the Chief of the department being appointed and designated as the purchasing agent for the district. Motion to approve by Don Martin, seconded by Raymond Depault. Carl Brunetti spoke stating that he spoke with the Town

Administrator who feels that neither Manville nor Albion should be buying a new truck, since the Town is proposing a survey to determine the needs of the fire districts. He also questioned whether the current truck could hold off until the survey results are received. Chief Andrews responded that Manville is not interested in discussing working with us. Secondly if we delay purchase until next year the price is anticipated to increase by at least \$25,000 He emphasized the versatility of the new truck and with just three people on duty that truck can answer any call we receive. Chief Andrews responded to Roland Montigny's question as to the need for a 100 ft. ladder.

Raymond Depault stated there was a Motion to accept, seconded by Michael Napolitano. Motion passed.

R-9 – Revision of the tax payment schedule to allow any tax bill in excess of \$200 can be made in two installments, December 31, 2014 and May 1, 2015. Robert Wingate made a Motion to amend this Resolution to add the word “equal” before installments, seconded by Jason Rodrigues. Motion to amend passed. Raymond Depault made a Motion to approve the Resolution as amended, seconded by Robert Wingate. Motion passed.

R-11 – Authorize and approve the procurement and execution of a tax anticipation note on behalf of the district in the sum of \$50,000. Motion to approve by Raymond Depault, seconded by Don Martin. Motion passed.

Adrien Gagne questioned when the lights in front of the station would

be repaired. Roland Montigny questioned why the trucks are run in front of the station daily. Chief Andrews advised that they have to be run every day to check that everything is functioning properly. Mr. Montigny thinks they should be moved behind the station to be run because it's noisy.

The Moderator entertained a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Raymond Depault, seconded by Jean Gagnon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.